



HOUSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

NEWS RELEASE

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CHANGE YOUR CLOCK, CHANGE YOUR BATTERY

As the springtime change approaches, April 2, the Houston Fire Department wants to remind residents to make another change that could save their lives – changing the batteries in their smoke detectors.

An average of three children a day dies in home fires and 82 percent of these occur in homes without working smoke detectors. Non-working smoke detectors rob residents of the protective benefits home fire safety devices were designed to provide. The most commonly cited cause of non-working smoke detectors is worn or missing batteries.

Changing smoke detector batteries at least once a year is one of the simplest, most effective ways to reduce these tragic deaths and injuries. In fact, working smoke alarms nearly cut in half the risk of dying in a home fire. Additionally, the International Association of Fire Chiefs recommends replacing your smoke detector every ten years.

“Working smoke detectors provide an early warning and critical extra seconds to escape,” said Fire Chief Phil Boriskie. “ This is particularly important for those most at risk of dying in a home fire, such as children and seniors.”